LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

Of

EDWARD J. DEAR

I, Edward J. Dear of Clatskanie, Oregon, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, do make, publish and declare this, and only this, My Last Will and Testament, hereby revoking any Testamentary Declarations by me at any time heretofore made.

First: I direct the payment of my just debts and funeral expenses as soon as practical after my decease.

Second: I give and bequeath to each of my four brothers and one sister the sum of Two Hundred ($200.00) Dollars. My brothers and sister are the following persons:

Charles R. Dear of Independence, Oregon.
A. C. Dear of Brawley, California.
William R. Dear.
Thurman E. Dear.
Mary Beauchamp of Camas, Washington.

The $200.00 bequeathed to any of my said brothers or sister, who may pre-decease me, shall go to his or her children, and if they have no children it shall become a part of my residuary estate.

Third: I give and bequeath to my sister in law, Mae Tavener, any automobiles which I may own at my death.

Fourth: I give, devise and bequeath all of the rest of my estate, whether real or personal property, wherever located, to my sisters in law, Mae Tavener, Ethel Silva and Nellie Devine, all of Clatskanie, Oregon, share and share alike. If either Ethel Silva or Mae Tavener should pre-decease me, or if they both pre-decease me, the share of either of them so pre-deceasing me shall go to the surviving residual heirs and devisees named in this paragraph. If Nellie Devine should pre-decease me, then her share in my said residual estate shall go to her children, share and share alike, per stirpes and not per capita. It is my intention that all of my said estate shall pass under this will.

PAUL J. JOLMA
ATTORNEY AT LAW
CLATSKANIE, OREGON

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PAUL J. JOLMA
ATTORNEY AT LAW
CLATSKANIE, OREGON

Fifth: I hereby nominate, constitute and appoint my sister in law, Mae Tavener, to be executrix hereof, and if she is unable or unwilling to so act, I nominate, constitute and appoint my sister in law, Ethel Silva, to be executrix hereof. I direct that no bond or other security shall be required of either the said Mae Tavener or Ethel Silva for the faithful performance of their duties as such executrix.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 4th day of May, 1959 in the presence of Paul J. Jolma and Kerttu I. Jolma, whom I have requested to subscribe their names as witnesses to this, My Last Will and Testament.

Edward J. Dear (SEAL)

The foregoing instrument, consisting of two pages, including this page, was on this 4th day of May, 1959, signed, sealed, declared and published by the said Edward J. Dear as and for his Last Will and Testament in the presence of us, who at his request and in his presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto.

Paul J. Jolma

Residing at Clatskanie, Oregon

Kerttu I. Jolma

Residing at Clatskanie, Oregon

FILED
H. F. Jensen
OCT 27 1959
COLUMBIA COUNTY CLERK
By Florina Yeance, Deputy

PAUL J. JOLMA
ATTORNEY AT LAW
CLATSKANIE, OREGON

TELEPHONE 2135

PAUL J. JOLMA
ATTORNEY AT LAW
CLATSKANIE, OREGON

October 29, 1959

Mr. Charles R. Dear, Rte 1, Box 175, Independence, Oregon
Mr. A. C. Dear, Brawley, California
Mr. Thurman E. Dear, Rte 1, Box 165, Camas, Washington
Mrs. Elmer Beauchamp, 1724 N. E. Franklin Street, Camas, Washington
Mrs. Mae Tavener, Clatskanie, Oregon
Mrs. Ethel Silva, Clatskanie, Oregon
Mrs. Nellie Devine, Clatskanie, Oregon

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

All of you and William R. Dear have been named as beneficiaries in Ed Dear's Will. Enclosed for each of you for your information is a true copy of his last will. This has been filed for probate by Mrs. Tavener.

If any of you have the address of William R. Dear I would appreciate it if you could give it to me.

Sincerely yours,

Paul J. Jolma

Paul J. Jolma

Eward J. Dear Last Will and Testament

October 27 1959

Reflections

Jeffrey Hunt August 15 2025

The last will and testament of Edward J. Dear, dated October 27, 1959, came from the Vail Dear steel box—a thin-walled, sturdy metal filing container, the kind meant for important documents. My grandfather, Thurman Dear, kept it tucked away on the top shelf in the far reaches of his back closet, where it was safe but difficult to access.

I inherited a .30-06 rifle from Edward J. Dear—I believe it was his, though I still need to confirm exactly which brother it came from. It was a .30-06 rifle refitted from a World War I sniper's rifle. I used it for a number of years deer hunting. It was a beast to lug through the woods—heavy, powerful, with a fierce kick—but it was accurate and impressive in its own right.

After my father Mahlon Hunt, passed away, I traded the rifle to my nephew, Christopher Hunt, for a .22 long-barrel pistol my dad had owned—a pistol with much higher sentimental value for me. Christopher was very happy with the trade, and I still have the pistol today. Its handmade locust-wood handles came from a tree in our backyard in Oak Park, Camas, Washington. I remember my dad soaking the wood for over a year in a bucket of water in the greenhouse when I was a kid. He sometimes carried that pistol as a sidearm while fishing or hunting.

Now, Christopher is the keeper of the sniper's rifle. One day, I'll get photos and details from him so this part of the story can be recorded alongside the rest.